

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
February 18, 2024
First Sunday of Lent



FIRST SUNDAY
in
LENT

Prelude

Susan Berg, Piano

Announcements

Opening Hymn

"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"
Song Leaders and Congregation

1. Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.

While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love, teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come;"
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.

Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God; he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be; let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.
Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world.
God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through +Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P: We pray together ...

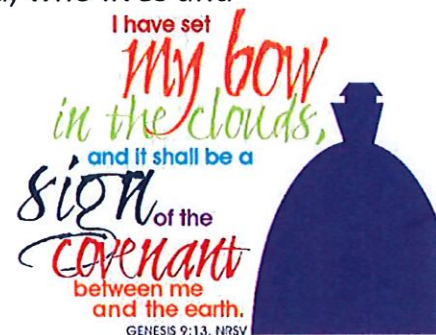
C: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 9:8-17

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition



⁸Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.^[a] ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living

creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷ God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

SECOND LESSON

1 Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered^[a] for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you^[b] to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for^[c] a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.



GOSPEL

Mark 1:9-15

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹ In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹ And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved;^[a] with you I am well pleased.”

The Testing of Jesus

¹² And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³ He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him.

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

¹⁴ Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good

news^[b] of^[c] God ¹⁵and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;^[d] repent, and believe in the good news."^[e]

Sermon

"Choices"

Sermon Hymn

"Thy Word" by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith
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CCLI License #2032355

Chorus:

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, and think I've lost my way.

Still, you're there right beside me.

Nothing will I fear as long as you are near; Please be near me to the end.

Chorus

2. I will not forget your love to me and yet, My heart forever is wandering.

Jesus be my guide, and hold me to your side, And I will love you to the end.

3. Nothing will I fear as long as you are near; Please be near me to the end.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

And a light unto my path.

You're the light unto my path.

Prayers of the People

On this First Sunday in Lent, let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Heavenly Father, each step in Jesus' ministry was orchestrated by God. Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist; then he was tested for his faith by God's enemy Satan and wild beasts; finally, after the temptation, he was ministered to by angels, and Jesus declared, *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe in the gospel."* **Lord in your mercy...**

There had been an earlier covenant given to humankind and all creatures. In the days of Noah, the earth was filled with wickedness and evil to the point that God needed to destroy all that he had made and begin again. After the flood, God made a covenant with Noah and his family. He promised never again to destroy the earth with water. The rainbow in the sky is the sacred symbol of God's promise. Lord, forgive us for violating that symbol in our modern world. Thank you for your words of covenant sanctified by the rainbow. **Lord in your mercy...**

We pray for our nation, state and city; our president, governor, mayor and the leaders of the world. Lord, thank you for the life-giving water that we have received in these weeks; we cannot live without it. Thank you also for the covenant of water through baptism that you have extended to all of humankind. *"For Christ also died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God."* As Peter declares, *"Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,"* **Lord in your mercy...**

Remember this congregation, its pastor and people, as we share the love of Jesus. Touch those who have asked for prayer with healing, comfort and growth in God's grace as we journey through Lent. We name those among us who have asked for prayer. And for what else do the people of God pray or praise? **Lord in your mercy...**

Lord God, your words giving us promises and covenants are powerful. *[Jesus Christ] has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.* Jesus is God's word made flesh. We praise Him now and forever. In His mighty name, we pray. **Amen.** CAROLYN T. LINN

Special Music

"What Grace Is Mine"/"I Cannot Tell"

Words by Keith & Kristyn Getty, W. Y. Fullerton,

Traditional Irish Melody (Londonderry Air)

Choral Ensemble



First Sunday in Lent, February 18, 2024

Scripture Reading: Genesis 9:8-17

If it costs your inner peace, it is too expensive. — Anon.

Once upon a time, a City Mouse from Chicago visited a cousin who lived in the neighboring state of Iowa. For lunch, the Country Mouse served wheat stalks, roots and acorns, with a dash of cold water to drink. The City Mouse ate very sparingly, nibbling a little of this and a little of that, and by her manner making it very plain that she ate the simple food only to be polite.

After the meal, the two cousins had a long talk. Actually, the City Mouse talked about her life in a huge metropolis, while her cousin, the Country Mouse, listened. They then went to bed in a cozy nest in the hedgerow and slept in quiet and comfort until morning.

In her sleep, the Country Mouse dreamed she was a City Mouse with all the luxuries and delights of city life that her cousin had described for her. So the next day, when the City Mouse asked the Country Mouse to go home with her to the city, she gladly said yes. They hopped a Union Pacific train, and off they went.

When they reached the mansion in which the City Mouse lived, they found on the table in the dining room the leavings of a very fine banquet. There were sweetmeats and jellies, pastries, delicious cheeses, indeed, the most tempting foods that a mouse can imagine.

But just as the Country Mouse was about to nibble a dainty bit of pastry, she heard a Cat mewl loudly and scratch at the door. In great fear, the mice scurried to a hiding place, where they lay quite still for a long time, hardly daring to breathe. When at last they ventured back to the feast, the door opened suddenly and in came the servants to clear the table, followed by the House Dog.

The Country Mouse stopped in the other Mouse's den only long enough to pick up her carpetbag and umbrella. "You may have luxuries and dainties that I have not," she said as she hurried away, "but I'd rather gnaw a bean than be gnawed by continual fear. Truth is, I prefer my plain food and simple life in the country with the peace and security that go with it."

Yes. Who wouldn't be glad to feel secure and at peace? But it is also possible that the City Mouse also felt more secure with her life in the city. Most of us prefer the peace and security of what we call "home."

It's wonderful to have peace and security with our outer, external life. Yet, somehow, it is even better to have that peace "which surpasses all understanding, [which] will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

—Timothy Merrill, with apologies to Aesop's version of this fable, with which creative liberties were taken.

Prayer: O Lord, thank you for surrounding me with your peace. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

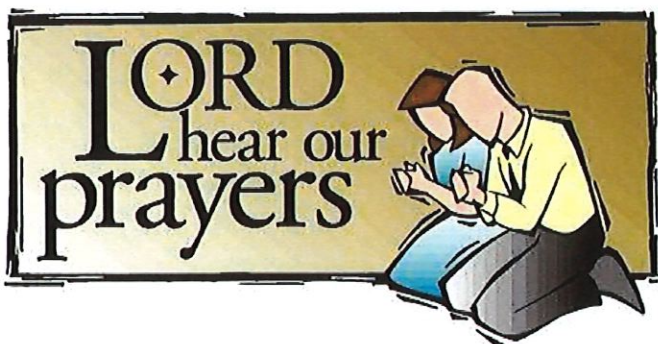


Members in Need of Prayer:

Jill Anderson
Diane Fake
Sheila Boehringer
JoAnn Huebner
Carolyn Linn
Dee Wright
Jim, Jimmy Sanborn & Stacy
Lairson on the loss of Stacy's
Father, Ken.
Yvonne Smith
Mona White
Neil and Verna Walden
Robert Harris
Jackie Miller
Mary Schmidt
Liz Smith
Bill Biggs
Arlene Robbins
Mary Norris & Family
Connie Alvarado
Susan Berg
Irene Pierini
Jocelyn Miller
Kirsten Linder
Jim Thompson

Family and Friends:

Jim & Judi (Werfelmann)
Anthony Collichio (Norris)
Mickey Cecil (Norris)
David Torres (Hays)
Jeanne Grant (Anderson)
Kyle (Werfelmann)
Kristy (Werfelmann)
Mariah (Werfelmann)
Josue Zamora (His Cat Balboa)
Dorothy Lee Bruce (Julie)
Monica & Kyle Sedra (Werfelmann)
Jacob, Abbe & Family (Werfelmann)
Kevin & Collee (Pastor)
Brad, Sam, & Luke Kossow
Janet Sharp (Fake)
Karl & Pauline Ritterbush (Fake)
Art & Children (Anderson)
Debbie West's Daughter, Christine
Bill, Wife & Sons (Julie)
Jennifer Wenzel (Wilk)
Bob Knous (Anderson)
Melissa (Sandy T.)
Joy Kensinger (Miller)
Jenna Vance (Kossow)
Frank and Anita Porco (Vonny)
Jim D. (Norris)
Jade Dixon (Julie)
Pam (Smith)
Grace Johnson (Fake)
Sandy Robbins (Robbins)
JJ Werfelmann (Julie)
Emily & Sawyer Bogart (Anderson)
Roger Robbins (Robbins)
Hudson Otten (Anderson)
Karen Ohanesian (Hays)
Rosemary (Vonny)
Nathan Robbins (Robbins)



The Lord's Prayer
Our Father, who art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.
Matthew 6:9-13

Blessing

Closing Hymn "Lord, Reign in Me" by Benton Brown
(c 1998, Vineyard Songs). CCLI Song #2490706, CCLI License
#2032355

1. Over all the earth You reign on high, ev'ry mountain stream, ev'ry sunset sky.
Buy my one request, Lord, my only aim is that You reign in me again.

Chorus:

Lord, reign in me, reign in Your pow'r,
Over all my dreams in my darkest hour.
You are the Lord of all I am, so won't You reign in me again?

2. Over ev'ry thought, over ev'ry word, may my life reflect the beauty of my Lord;
'Cause You mean more to me than any earthly thing, so won't You reign in me
again.

Chorus

Sending

P: Go in peace. Share your bread.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Susan Berg, Piano



Week of February 18, 2024

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Exodus 21-24

Monday: Exodus 25-27

Tuesday: Exodus 28-31

Wednesday: Exodus 32-34

Thursday: Exodus 35-37

Friday: Exodus 38-40

Saturday: Psalms 16-18

In Between

The object of this game is to find words that begin with the letters in the word on the left column and end with the word on the right column.

EXAMPLE:

B	BUSINESS	S
I	ICE	E
R	RIDE	E
D	DIAMOND	D

1. A	P
R	I
M	T
2. B	A
A	C
C	H
K	E
3. C	F
A	R
R	E
E	E
4. D	L
E	I
A	N
D	E
5. F	B
I	O
S	W
H	L

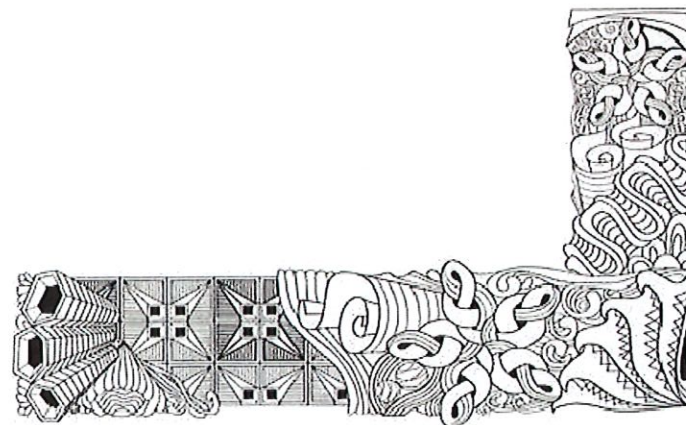
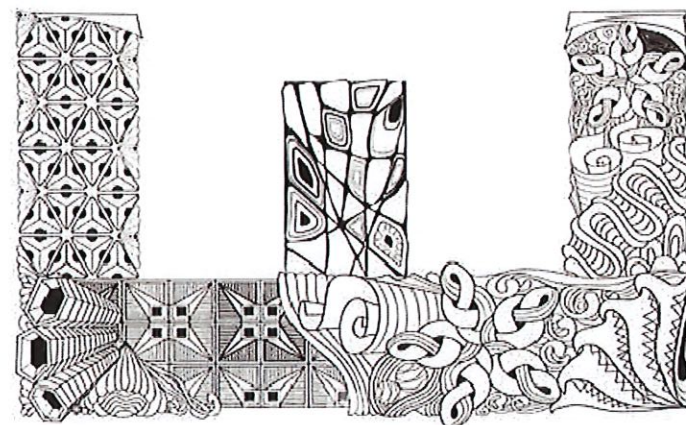
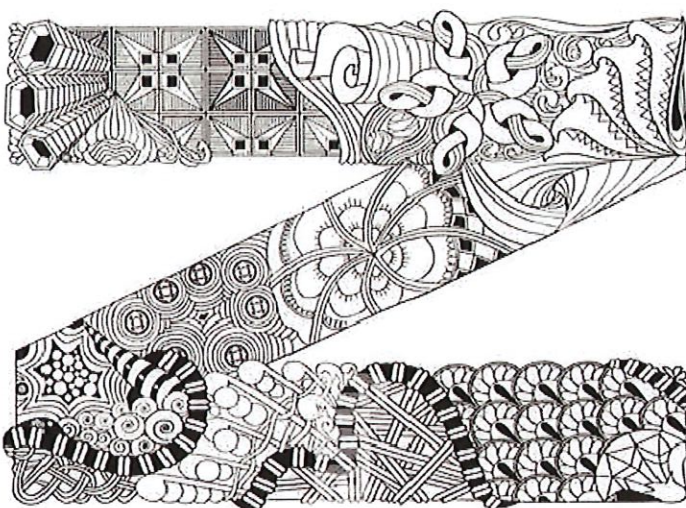
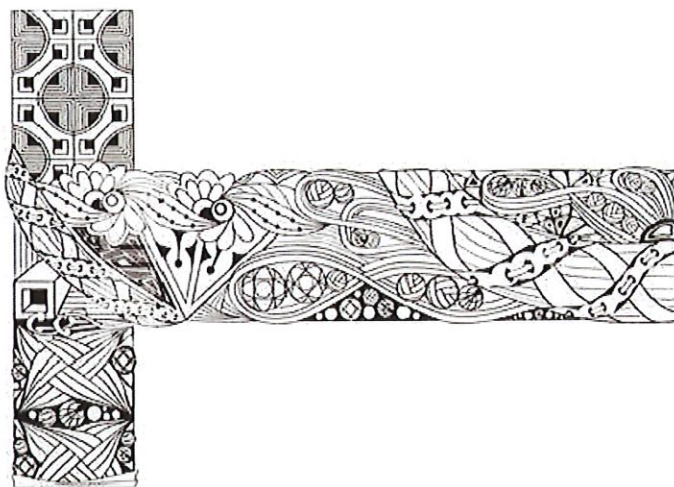
6. O	F
V	L
E	O
R	W
7. G	C
R	H
A	I
N	L
D	D
8. H	M
O	A
M	D
E	E
9. L	W
U	A
K	R
E	M
10. P	O
A	F
Y	F

Possible answers : 1. asleep, ravioli, mount; 2. banana, atomic, church, knee; 3. chief, affair, rinse, eve; 4. devil, eboli, adjourn, deceive; 5. flab, igloo, show, hell; 6. oaf, vernal, echo, renew ; 7. graphic, ranch, alibi, naval, decided; 8. harem, opera, mild, elevate; 9. law, utopia, knitter, elm ; 10. photo, aloof, yourself.



First Sunday
IN LENT

EXAMPLE





My Lenten Prayer

Dear Jesus

Thank you for giving Your life
for me and for everyone in the world.

You fasted 40 days in the desert, and
I want to remember Your sacrifice during Lent,
by doing the following:

Please help me to do this out of love for You,
and help me in my hour of need.

Amen.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lenten Soup Suppers, Wednesday, 2/21, 2/28, 3/6 –3/20 @ 6:15



Please consider making soup for your church family on one of the 6 Wednesdays of Lent. You can partner with another and bring 2 kinds of soup or use the kitchen on a Sunday morning to make it for the following Wednesday. Typically we need enough soup for 20-30 people (may be adjusted as we see attendance trends), along with a bread of your choice. Your expenses will be reimbursed from the supper offering. There is a sign up sheet in the entry area. Questions? See Deb Wilk, Carol Sullivan, or Julie W.

Lenten Devotionals

Are on the ushers' table for you to take home. We only have a couple of large print copies so please take the small booklet, to save the large print for those that really need it. Thanks!



GSLC Lenten Wednesdays



For all the Wednesdays of Lent we will be offering food for the body and soul. 6:15 Soup Supper in Jacobson Hall
7-8 Adult Class with Pastor Ted & Kids' Time with Julie.

Please plan to make Wednesday nights @ Good Shepherd part of your Lenten journey this year. Come and be fed!

OWLS February 19th @ 1PM

OWLS will gather at ONE PM at Honey baked Ham for a No Host Luncheon for their February 19th meeting. 1056 W. Shaw Ave., Fresno. Sandy T will need your RSVP by February 16th, Friday.



Pantry Needs Restocking



We could use: Rice, bagged pasta, canned sauces, canned vegetables (Corn, Green Beans), canned fruit (fruit cocktail, peaches, pineapple), canned chili beans, egg noodles, Cream of mushroom or chicken soup, Mayo, canned tuna, chicken or beef, ramen noodles, Mac N Cheese, boxed pasta meals, peanut butter and grape jelly. Donations can be dropped off at the office M - F, from 9AM - 1PM.

Follow Us Now on Instagram

GSLC is now on Instagram and has been on Facebook  so don't forget to follow us to see what is happening. Please get on Instagram and hit LIKE or the heart on our GSLC postings. This is how our postings come at the start of the feed for those following us as individuals. We need to be proactive to spread the word so we can grow.



It's Girl Scout Cookies on Sale TODAY



Girl Scouts will be here TODAY, after service, if you would like to purchase cookies.

You can also order them through the link below or by contacting Sheri Eggebraaten at 559-903-1851 or email her at massagebysheri@aol.com.

Here is a direct link: <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/how-to-buy-cookies.html>

You can see what's available at [Meet the Cookies | Girl Scouts](#)

Here's the [full lineup](#) for 2024: Adventurefuls, Caramel Chocolate Chip, Samoas, Do-si-dos, Girl Scout S'mores, Lemonade, LemonUps, Tagalongs, Thin Mints, Toast-Yay!, Toffee-tastic, Trefoils.

SEWING SAINTS—FINAL REPORT



Sewing Saints were suspended last year due to changes in health conditions of many of our members. This year many of the members agreed to close and sell or donate materials to those who would make use of them.

On January 14th we began our Sewing Sale, opening it to members first. We thank all those who participated and contributed to the success of our sale. Quilts and lap robes were donated to **Fresno Mission for Women and Children's** ministry as well as a lovely group which went to **Roeding School** (Thanks Cheryl). The Quilting groups of Christ Lutheran Visalia also purchased a sewing machine, a full roll of batting and many yards of cotton. They continue to quilt for Lutheran World Relief as well as Visalia community needs.

A **total amount of \$515** was raised for Good Shepherd's general fund. Thanks again for all who helped and contributed! Happy sewing and crafting! Dee Wright

FYI—Looking for a Car



We have a close friend that is looking for an affordable 4 door sedan. If anyone knows of anyone selling a vehicle or has any suggestions speak to Mary N.

Bring a Friend to Worship

There are business cards paper clipped in stacks of 5 to use to invite people to worship service. Hand them out in your neighborhood or at your local stores. You can ask an usher for the cards if you can't find them.



Community Concert TODAY, Feb. 18 @ 3PM

1. On Sunday, February 18 at 3:00 p.m. community choruses from the Fresno area as well as several church choirs will present "From Bach to Schubert: A Sacred Masterworks Collaboration." The concert, directed by Dr. Jeffery S. Wilson of Fresno Pacific University, will feature performances of Bach's Cantata #4, Schubert's Mass in G, and shorter works by Hassler, Handel, and Haydn. This free concert will be held at St. James Episcopal Cathedral at 4147 E. Dakota Ave. in Fresno. John Montgomery of our congregation will participate as a member of the Fresno Choral Artists.

2. The world-renowned Concordia Choir of Moorhead, Minnesota, under the direction of Dr. Michael Culloton, will perform in Paul Shaghoian Memorial Concert Hall on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. From the music of J.S. Bach to familiar hymn arrangements, The Concordia Choir will amaze you with their technical mastery and incredible sound. Visit ConcordiaTickets.com for tickets. For more information see the poster on the breezeway bulletin board. For any questions contact Susan Berg by email at bergkenneth@comcast.net.

